

**Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/c.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken.”

Thursday, December 8, 2011

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Debbie Anselmo
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Carol Coleman
Trustee Anne Bermier
Trustee Norman L. Schnaufer
Trustee Matthew P. Walsh

ALSO PRESENT:

Steve Busa, Treasurer
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

NOT PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration (prior personal commitment)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *"I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all"*.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Andrews noted that December 7, 2011 was the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He also reported that Marlies Perthel, the wife of former Village President Werner Perthel passed away. Marlies was a long time resident of Indian Head Park and at one time she was a Deputy Clerk for Indian Head Park. Marlies also worked as a secretary in the planning and zoning department at the Village of LaGrange, she went on to become the Village Manager for LaGrange and involved in the development of the Village triangle, the parking deck and the beautification of downtown LaGrange.

Mayor Andrews stated it was six weeks ago when evil entered the Village and took the life of a young innocent girl, Kelli Joy O'Laughlin. She was one of our young brilliant stars. Mayor Andrews stated what matters most is not how long the star shines but what counts is the brilliance of its light. Mayor Andrews stated that he spoke with the O'Laughlin family and the Village does intend to have a memorial for Kelli at an appropriate time and place. He noted that time is needed to allow the O'Laughlin family to properly grieve and they will be involved in discussions regarding an appropriate memorial.

Mayor Andrews stated that each year the firm of Storino, Ramello and Durkin, the Village's Counsel, makes a charitable donation on the Village's behalf. In prior years the donation was made to the Make a Wish Foundation. This year our law firm will be making that donation to the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Fund.

Mayor Andrews announced the appointment of the Indian Head Park Neighborhood Watch Oversight Council. He noted the following Village representatives have been appointed to the Neighborhood Watch Council: Village Clerk Joe Consolo, Trustees Anne Bermier and Matt Walsh and Police Chief Frank Alonzo. Mayor Andrews stated that the Indian Head Park Neighborhood Watch Oversight Council's role will be to work with representatives of all areas of the Village to establish a comprehensive neighborhood watch program throughout the Village. Mayor Andrews stated that Clerk Consolo has experience with the Cook County Sheriff's Department, Trustee Walsh has experience as a prosecutor with the State's Attorney's Office, Trustee Bermier has served the Board as Police Trustee and Chief Alonzo has extensive law enforcement experience.

Mayor Andrews stated that some suggestions from residents were made at previous community awareness meetings and Board meetings regarding communications to residents of what is happening in the Village.

He noted that Chief Alonzo conveyed that the community will be kept informed with information that is appropriate. Mayor Andrews stated that a crimes alert page was added to the Village Website and the Police Department will provide updates as needed. Also, as previously mentioned the Village will not be utilizing the assistance of the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program.

Mayor Andrews stated that someone from the Indian Head Park Single Family Homeowners Association previously asked why the Village does not regulate garage sales because they believed garage sales are a magnet for crime. He noted that Village Counsel is researching whether the Village can regulate garage sales. Mayor Andrews also stated that residents should be aware of contractor's they hire to do work around their homes and also to confirm with the Village Offices that those contractors have registered with the Village. He further stated that the Police Department, by appointment, also provides a service to residents for a security inspection of the home by an officer.

Mayor Andrews extended congratulations to John Fornalski and Cara Rafanelli, two young adults from Indian Head Park who received the Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor in November for providing one hundred or more hours of community service.

Mayor Andrews stated in early November he had the opportunity to attend a Water Rate Task Force Conference with suburban Mayors and other representatives including representatives from the West Central Municipal Conference. He noted that effective January 1, 2012 the City of Chicago is raising its water rate by 25% and then a 15% increase each year for the next three years. Mayor Andrews stated that the increases from the City of Chicago will also affect the water rates in Indian Head Park. He noted that the conference was held to discuss the water rate increases with representatives from the extended areas including South Suburban Mayors and representatives from DuPage County. The purpose of the meeting was to designate representatives from various suburban areas to meet with representatives of the Chicago Water Commission to determine if perhaps this issue can be addressed through legislation that could be enacted at the City of Chicago level to regulate water costs. Mayor Andrews stated that there was a litigation case between the Village of Niles and the City of Chicago for water rate increases that dates back to the 1970's and it took to the year 2003 for the matter to be settled through the various court systems. The settlement was about 8 million dollars in terms of water credits to the users of the Niles water system but it took many years to resolve.

Mayor Andrews pointed out that in Chicago some users of the water system pay a flat water rate whether they use the water or not. He noted in Chicago the water supplied to schools and park districts from the City of Chicago is provided free of charge. Therefore, someone else has to pay for the cost and delivery of that water.

Mayor Andrews stated that representatives of the West Central Municipal Conference are also researching various options region-wide that might be available for alternative electric utility providers that might offer better rates to its customers. He noted recent electric utility legislation was approved for Smartgrid, which does has some good points to it. The computerized Smartgrid process will allow the electric company to isolate where outages occur and they can re-route electricity to restore service more quickly.

Mayor Andrews stated that all of the maintenance work at the Heritage Center has been completed, the building is an attractive point in the Village and the building will no longer need painting because of the maintenance free siding that was installed.

Mayor Andrews stated that a contractor was selected and the project was awarded for the Blackhawk Park pathway improvement project initially planned to start in November. He noted with Village Engineer input and discussion with the contractor, it was determined that it would be better to wait until spring to complete the project when there are sufficient good weather days to complete the project for the new concrete surface to be installed. Mayor Andrews stated that the new pathway will be constructed of concrete, it will be eight-feet (8') in width and the project funding will come from proceeds of the Lyons Township Park Bond that were allocated to Indian Head Park.

Mayor Andrews stated previously a resident has suggested that the Village of Indian Head Park possibly consider passing an ordinance to allow concealed carry weapons. He noted that Village counsel researched this matter and provided an opinion on this subject. Counsel Rich Ramello stated the following (1) forty-nine (49) states in the United States do have concealed carry laws which allow citizens to carry concealed firearms in public; (2) various states require permits and some states do not require permits; (3) Illinois is the only State in the union that is a no issue jurisdiction which means Illinois does not allow concealed weapons to be carried into the State; (4) carrying a concealed weapon in Illinois outside of your home, dwelling or place of business is a violation of the criminal code; (5) even if the Village were to pass an ordinance to allow concealed carry weapons, that would still not abrogate the Illinois State Statute, which prohibits concealed carry weapons; (6) as a community that is not home rule, Indian Head Park would further be barred from passing such an ordinance regarding concealed carry weapons because the State has already passed legislation on the matter; (7) a recent case at the Supreme Court level was heard that invalidated a City of Chicago ordinance that tried to impose an amusement tax on internet sellers like Stubhub. In that case, the Illinois Supreme Court determined that when the City of Chicago became involved in the regulation of a particular activity that is a matter of State-wide concern, the City of Chicago did not have the authority to impose such regulations; (8) any effort by the Village of Indian Head Park to consider and approve a concealed carry weapon ordinance would be met by possible litigation that would unnecessarily cost the Village a substantial amount of money to defend the ordinance and (9) the recommendation by counsel to the Village Board is not to consider passing a concealed carry ordinance. Accordingly, Mayor Andrews stated that the Village will not spend any more time on this matter.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Andrews noted that the approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance for fiscal year beginning May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012 as well as approval of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law Resolution will be considered at a special Board meeting to be held later in the month.

Approval of Tax Levy Ordinance for Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012 (Ordinance #2011-7). (To be considered for discussion and vote at a special meeting to be held at a later date).

*Approval of a Property Tax Extension Limitation Law Resolution (**Resolution #R-12-11-1**). (To be considered for discussion and vote at a special meeting to be held at a later date).*

Reappointment of Steven Busa as Treasurer for the term ending December 31, 2012.

Approval of Board Meeting Calendar Dates for 2012.

Appointment of Timothy J. Kyzivat to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the term ending May 14, 2013

Prior to the vote on the Consent Agenda items, Mayor Andrews stated that Timothy J. Kyzivat, will be fulfilling the unexpired term on the Planning and Zoning Commission for Commissioner Denise Ingram. He thanked Denise Ingram for her service on the Commission and mentioned she stepped down because she will be moving from Indian Head Park.

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to approve the consent agenda, as presented with the exception of the Tax Levy Ordinance and Property Tax Extension Limitation Law Resolution which will be considered for approval at a later date. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT – TREASURER STEVE BUSA

Approval of Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2011

Treasurer Busa reported that the financial report for the month of November will be presented at the January Board meeting to allow time for all end of the month bank statements to be received to complete the report for the month of November.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – November 10, 2011

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the November 10, 2011 regular Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

AGENDA ITEM

1. An Ordinance Providing for the Submission to the Electors of the Village the Question Whether the Property Tax Extension Limitation of the Village be Increased. (Ordinance #2011-8).

Mayor Andrews stated that a draft ordinance was prepared for the Board's review entitled: "*An Ordinance Whether the Property Tax Extension Limitation of the Village be Increased*". Mayor Andrews further stated that Indian Head Park like many other Villages have been fighting the battle of lack of revenue resources and the need for money to fund day to day Village expenses. He noted the Board tried to address the matter in November, 2010 with a question on the ballot regarding home rule. He added home rule was not favorably received by voters at that time and the Village moved on. Mayor Andrews stated that the matter before the Board this evening is to discuss placing a question on the ballot at the March 20, 2012 General Election so that residents in Indian Head Park can vote whether they are willing to provide more money through property taxes to help fund Village operations.

Mayor Andrews stated the Village needs more revenue and it has been stated for several years that more revenue is needed. He added that we all have to pay for services and day to day operations. Mayor Andrews stated that in December, 2013 the Village has a debt payment that will increase by about \$100,000. Also, the Village is short one full-time police officer, we need police equipment, some residents have suggested a program for police to notify residents by phone, internet or e-mail when issues arise in town or possibly adding a bicycle patrol. He noted all of these programs have a cost.

Mayor Andrews stated the Board will be asking voters to approve questions on the ballot that would generate an additional \$350,000 in property taxes. He noted \$150,000 is needed for police protection and security in the Village. The funds would be used to hire one full-time officer for the position that has not been filled in four years and will also help to pay for other police related expenses. Mayor Andrews stated that part-time officers as well as overtime hours have filled the gap previously but that limits the ability to utilize another officer for other activities such as neighborhood watch or other programs. Mayor Andrews pointed out that all of the officers that assisted the Village recently through the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force were all part of a special program that many Villages participate in when the need arises including Indian Head Park when we need to respond to their call for assistance. He noted Indian Head Park has previously authorized six (6) sworn full-time police officers and there are only five (5), the Village balanced the current budget but there are unforeseen expenses that occurred with police investigations so additional funds to run the day to day operation is needed for our own protection.

Mayor Andrews pointed out that funds are also needed to maintain streets in the Village and several roads are in need of repairs. Some residents of Ashbrook, Arrowhead Trail, Cochise, Pontiac, Acacia and other areas have mentioned the need for road repairs and curb work. He noted money is needed to complete those repairs, the Village could borrow more money and incur debt but at some point the payment comes due. Mayor Andrews stated the Village does not have the money for street maintenance, maybe some of the streets are not in that bad of shape now but at some point they will need maintenance and it would be a good idea to have an on-going road program that is not tied to a road bond. He noted that with road bonds all the money is spent at once to complete the road project then by the time the road bond is paid off (10) ten or (15) fifteen years later, some streets are again beginning to deteriorate.

Mayor Andrews stated an on-going road maintenance program could perhaps fund a \$300,000 project for street repairs. He noted if the majority of voters approve the question on the ballot to raise additional revenue, the Village would receive the funds in the fall of 2013. He noted the Board will be placing a referendum question on the ballot to the voters at the March 20, 2012 Election, and if the referendum passes, the Village could levy that money and it would appear on the second installment of the tax bill in 2013. Mayor Andrews stated that approval by the voters to raise additional funds for a road program would benefit all of the community.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Board will ask the voters for approval on the ballot at the March 20, 2012 General Election to raise \$150,000 for police protection, \$100,000 for a road maintenance program and \$100,000 for debt certificate payments. He added that the Village previously refinanced the debt at a lower interest rate but one of the terms of the refinance is that it delayed a substantial increase in the debt payment until 2013 but that payment will increase by \$100,000 at that time. Absent refinancing the debt payment increase would have already occurred further strapping the budget. Mayor Andrews stated that the Board does not have the authority to raise taxes as a non home rule community and the referendum questions will be placed on the ballot for consideration by the voters to determine what direction the Village will take. He added in 2011 the Board is trying to plan for future expenses and even if the majority of the voters approve the questions on the ballot at the March 20, 2012 election the money will not be received until the fall of 2013.

Mayor Andrews stated if the voters do not approve the questions on the ballot at the March 20, 2012 Election for the Village to raise funds, the reality is that the Village will have to address the shortfall of revenue. He noted the Village needs to be able to raise taxes above the threshold that is allowed by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law which is the lesser of 5% or the consumer price index, which is only 1.5% this year. Mayor Andrews stated the Village needs an increase of more than 1.5% to pay for services and programs and the concept is to raise an additional \$350,000 in revenue from approval by the voters with funds to be earmarked in the categories discussed.

Trustee Bermier stated that the most important question raised by residents is how the increase would affect their property tax bills. She noted in the Village of LaGrange an article appeared in the newspaper that the Village of LaGrange had voted a 2.4% property tax increase. That increase would mean a home with a \$400,000 market value would have an increase on their tax bill of about \$19.15. Trustee Bermier stated that amount is not much and the residents of LaGrange would not be upset with an increase by that nominal amount. Trustee Bermier asked if the voters of Indian Head Park would know how much the increase would mean on their tax bill because residents would have a better understanding if they know how much the increase would be. Mayor Andrews stated when the wording of the referendum question for placement on the ballot is finalized, those details will be provided. Mayor Andrews further stated that Illinois State Statute requires an explanation with the referendum question that is placed on the ballot as well as how much that increase would be for a \$100,000 market value home.

Trustee Walsh stated that a road bond referendum was approved in Indian Head Park in 1996 that will be expiring this year. He noted that the line item on the tax bills for that bond referendum will no longer be collected so each tax bill will go down by that amount.

Trustee Walsh stated the tax increase the Board is discussing for placement on the March 20, 2012 ballot will off-set the amount that was previously collected in part. Mayor Andrews stated the Village made the last payment on the road bond approved in 1996 in December of this year and the levy for the tax year was \$110,000 for payment and interest for that bond. He noted next year everyone should see a reduction on their tax bill for the one line item for Indian Head Park because the road bond payment had ended.

Mayor Andrews stated residents were already paying on their tax bills towards a \$110,000 road bond referendum from 1996 that will no longer be reflected on their tax bills. If the voters approve a \$350,000 increase in revenue, that would cover \$150,000 for police protection and security, \$100,000 for an on-going road maintenance program and \$100,000 for debt payment expenses. Trustee Coleman stated that the percentage of the tax increase would only be the Indian Head Park portion on the tax bill and not a percentage of the entire tax bill. She stated that it is important to note that there may be future opportunities for the Village to receive Federal funding for some road improvements. Trustee Coleman stated that the Village Engineer is working with the Village to determine if Acacia Drive, as a connecting street in the Village to a main roadway, can be designated on the Federal street mapping program that might be eligible for funding. She noted that even if the Village applied and qualified for road funding or grants, the Village would be responsible for funding a portion of the project. However, if the Village does not have money for its portion, Federal funding would not be available for road maintenance.

Mayor Andrews stated that when some grant opportunities arise that could help pay for partial funding of projects, the Village cannot even participate in those programs because there are no funds available for the Village's portion. He further noted that Blackhawk Trail is on the Federal road mapping system and that road was eligible for Federal stimulus funding for road repairs (a \$400,000 project that only cost the Village about \$25,000). The Village Engineer is also determining if there are other connecting streets in the Village that would qualify for designation on the Federal mapping system. Mayor Andrews stated that many schools and other communities are sitting on substantial money reserves that were paid by tax dollars that people paid today that will benefit others in the future. He added the Village does not have those types of reserves and funds are needed to pay for everyday programs and services.

Trustee Bailey stated the Board has no power to raise the property taxes but the residents have an opportunity and the choice to vote whether to allow the Board to increase revenue to fund programs and services. Trustee Bailey stated that the entire Board pays the same property taxes as everyone else and whatever happens on the ballot in March, the Board will live with the decision that is made. He added that the Board has exhausted every possibility to increase revenue, a property tax increase is the last resort to increase revenue to the Village, the Board is only adding the questions to the ballot for voter consideration and \$350,000 is the anticipated additional revenue that is needed for Village expenses. Trustee Bailey stated that he has lived in the Village for the past eleven years, there has been no property tax increase at the local level in those years and other costs have increased during that time period. Trustee Bermier stated that the State of Illinois has also not paid the Village its share of State shared revenue.

Mayor Andrews noted the State of Illinois raised the income tax from 3% to 5%, the Village previously received 10% of all revenues collected from the 3% income tax, participation in the U.S. Census is so important to Indian Head Park because it is based on per capita and the census is only conducted every ten years. He noted the current population of the Village is 3,815 and the last census in the year 2000 was 3,685. When the state increased the income tax from 3% to 5% there was discussion by the state to cut the portion to Villages from 10% to 7%. The state decided to leave the distribution at the current level of 10% and keep all of the difference from 3% to 5% for the State. Mayor Andrews stated that if the State decided to share the extra 2% they are collecting with Indian Head Park it would be significant money to the Village and that alone would have possibly paid for one full-time police officer.

Mayor Andrews mentioned one Board member previously stated that the Board would be failing in its obligation to the community if we did not give residents a chance to tell us officially at an election whether or not they would be willing to pay the additional money to allow the Village to seek revenues to operate the Village with revenue that is needed. Mayor Andrews stated that he is also available to meet with associations in the Village to explain the importance to the entire community of supporting the questions that will be placed on the March 20, 2012 Election ballot for voter approval.

Trustee Schnauffer stated that additional revenue is needed for a multitude of services and programs in the present and the future that need to be funded. He added that some state shared revenue may be received at some point but it would not be enough to pay for all services and programs. Trustee Walsh reiterated that Mayor Andrews mentioned previously that even if the voters approve a property tax increase on the March 20, 2012 ballot, the money will not be received until the fall of 2013. Therefore, the Board is trying to plan ahead for funds that are needed to run the Village. Trustee Walsh stated that he agrees with Trustee Bermier that an explanation needs to be provided to residents on what the increase would be to their tax bill. Trustee Walsh further stated that the Board is only considering placing the questions on the ballot in March and over the next three months discussion can be held with residents on how to apply the money that would be received by the Village.

Mayor Andrews stated that the draft ordinance presented to the Board this evening will not be voted on this evening because there are further questions that have come up with the levy and the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law. Therefore, additional time and review by counsel is needed to determine the exact language for the questions that will be placed on the ballot for voter consideration. He noted that the Tax Levy Ordinance and Property Tax Extension Limitation Law resolution needs to be approved by the Village and filed with Cook County by December 27th. January 3, 2012 is the deadline for filing the referendum questions with Cook County to be placed on the March 20, 2012 ballot. Mayor Andrews stated that additional information will be printed in Smoke Signals before the upcoming election regarding the questions that will be placed on the ballot in March.

Mayor Andrews stated that a special Board meeting will be held this month on a date and time to be determined to review and approve the tax levy ordinance, property tax extension limitation law resolution and ordinances that need to be approved with referendum questions to be placed on the March 20, 2012 ballot.

He noted that the special meeting agenda will be announced on the Village's Website forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting as well as a sign to be placed at the Heritage Center regarding the special meeting date and time. Mayor Andrews stated that he hopes residents would support the increase in property tax revenue to help pay for police protection services and programs, to set aside funds for road programs and to have funds to make the debt payments. He noted that many Villages have large commercial district areas to bring revenue in but Indian Head Park is a small bedroom community with limited revenue resources. Mayor Andrews stated that Indian Head Park has been just getting by for over sixteen (16) years without any local property tax increase, it takes a lot of work to just get by and make ends meet and now we need the help of residents to benefit the entire community.

Trustee Anselmo pointed out that some neighboring communities such as LaGrange can raise the taxes when they need more money without even asking the voters. However, Indian Head Park must ask the voters for approval before increasing taxes. Mayor Andrews stated that maybe one of the concerns by voters when home rule was proposed was that residents did not know what the Village would do if home rule was approved. He added that is not the case with the questions that will be placed on the ballot for the March 20, 2012 Election because an explanation of the questions will be listed on the ballot so everyone knows what they are voting on and what the Village would do with the funds.

Joan Metz, of Arrowhead Court, asked the Board if the questions and a more specific explanation of the items to be placed on the March ballot would be available at the next Board meeting to be held this month. Mayor Andrews stated that counsel will be working on the language to be prepared for the questions to be placed on the ballot, an explanation will be provided and the information will be available at the next Board meeting. He noted the explanation of the dollar amount to be raised by the tax increase on a market value home of \$100,000 will reflect an amount that would be before any type of exemptions that might apply. Mayor Andrews stated that someone might have a comparable market value home but one person may qualify for certain homeowner exemptions (such as senior exemption or senior tax freeze).

Trustee Coleman stated that everyone must be realistic about the fair market value of their homes not what someone thinks their property is worth when calculating the amount a tax increase would be. She noted that due to the economy today someone trying to sell their home may believe their home is worth more when market value is actually less. Mayor Andrews stated that if residents refer to their tax bill from the second installment tax bill there is a column that lists market value of each property.

Mrs. Metz asked if \$100,000 of the property tax increase would go towards paying off the debt payment once that is paid would there be \$100,000 to the good in revenue to the Village for other services? She asked what the Village would use the funds coming in from the tax increase after the \$100,000 debt payment is paid.

Mayor Andrews stated that the \$100,000 debt payment will need to be paid every year until the year 2020 and the payment stays at that higher level until the year 2020 when it is paid off.

Trustee Bailey stated even after the year 2020 when the debt payment ends there are plenty of other expenses. He noted that the Village pays a part-time Village Administrator/Chief of Police with a small salary and he does not receive benefits. Trustee Bailey stated that if the Village ever needed a full-time administrator or full-time Chief of Police more money would be needed to pay those salaries and benefits, there is currently no leaf program funded by the Village and who knows what will happen with future expenses.

Mrs. Metz stated she is aware that the Indian Head Park Police Department patrols the unincorporated areas of Lyons Township. She asked if there are three officers on shift are two officers patrolling Indian Head Park and one officer assigned to the Highlands. Mayor Andrews stated that officers are patrolling Indian Head Park and the Highlands at the same time but not on all shifts seven days a week. He added there is only one shift per day in the Highlands covered by Indian Head Park.

Timothy Kyzivat, of Acacia, asked if the property tax increase will be over a certain number of years or if there is a limit on how long it would last. Mayor Andrews stated that the concept is to increase the revenue to the Village solely by property tax on the one line item on the whole tax bill to raise an additional \$350,000 per year starting when the increase would be effective and every year thereafter. Mayor Andrews stated that the Board is currently levying at the maximum rate and it is not enough every year. The Board would have the authority to go to the higher level if passed only once, but it would remain year to year thereafter. Mayor Andrews stated that each taxing agency (schools, parks, libraries) on the tax bill levies to the maximum because if you estimate a lower levy amount the next year, that increment you did not ask for is gone forever.

Trustee Coleman stated that the Board needs to look forward to the future to fund police protection, roads programs and other programs and services. Every year there is a need to fund various projects and it is beneficial to have an on-going road program and to prioritize streets that need to be done.

Beverly Atkins, of 6212 Edgebrook Lane, asked the Board if the intention is to raise the levy by selling bonds. Mayor Andrews stated the road bond money that came in from the 1996 referendum came in and went directly out to pay the road bond, the Village is paying off the debt certificate from revenue from the Corporate Fund and there is some flexibility with allocating certain funds towards a road program or police. Mayor Andrews stated the Village still needs more money to operate and that will not change. Mayor Andrews stated if the referendum question regarding \$100,000 to be raised for road improvements is approved, those funds will be utilized for an on-going street program as it was explained by looking at what needs to be done, how much will it cost and borrowing money to complete the project to pay that off in a short period of time. Mrs. Atkins stated if the Village makes the questions on the ballot specific on what is being requested and how the money will be utilized there would be a better chance of receiving favorable voter input. She suggested meeting with associations to explain what is being proposed to the voters. Mayor Andrews stated that one of the toughest things he had to do is tell residents the Board needs a property tax increase, but that is the reality that more money is needed to run the Village and he would be happy to explain that to all associations.

Mayor Andrews stated at one time Acacia Circle was not a public street and the Village accepted the street for dedication to the Village. He noted there may be a part of the Village that does not drive on that street but all residents help to maintain it. He further stated it is now time for other parts of the community to step up even though they may not get a direct benefit but in the long term it is good for everyone in the Village because a street that looks nice and is paved will help maintain property values.

Mrs. Atkins thanked the Board for making arrangements for the recent pavement work completed on her street that was in need of repairs. Mayor Andrews stated that some things need to be done when issues arise even if it is not budgeted. He further stated that he hopes residents will get behind the Village Board to support what is best for the community in the upcoming election on March 20, 2012.

Chris Metz, of Arrowhead Court, stated that over the past fifteen years additional property has been developed in the Village with Ashbrook, Chestnut on the Green, Indian Woods and the retail shopping center on Joliet Road. Mr. Metz stated that the Village had an increase in property tax revenue and sales tax from those projects and where did all that money go? He asked if there is a strategic plan for the \$350,000, if approved, in moving ahead on what specifically needs to be done with the additional revenue and is that enough funds to generate the revenue needed for future expenses. Mayor Andrews stated that any property taxes received from new development or sales tax from the commercial area helped to off-set expenses over 16 years when there was no property tax increases. Mayor Andrews stated a few years ago residents voted to approve a sales tax increase that helped to generate some additional money in lieu of raising property taxes at that time. He added that we do not know what the economic situation will be in the future and it is nice to have a plan but as things change in the economy so do plans. Trustee Coleman stated that the Board has given residents three specific areas where funds are needed: \$150,000 for police protection and services which includes the hiring of one additional full-time police officer with benefits, \$100,000 for an on-going road program and \$100,000 to pay the debt certificate payments. Trustee Coleman stated the Village anticipates that an additional \$350,000 in revenue is needed for the three specific areas mentioned.

Mr. Metz asked if a \$350,000 increase was enough or should it be more? Mayor Andrews stated that although there are many ways that a higher amount of new revenue could be spent, he and the Village Board believe \$350,000 was a reasonable amount to ask of the residents in this economy and still have a chance at successful passage.

Trustee Anselmo stated that the Board has explored every avenue to help bring revenue into the Village over the years and now is the time to go to the voters to ask for approval to help bring in additional revenue needed to the Village to fund the Village operations. Mr. Metz asked where funds will come from to provide updates to the Village Website. Trustee Anselmo stated that if the voters approve a property tax increase those funds will be allocated to the three areas discussed and that will possibly free up some funds in other areas to pay for other expenses.

Mrs. Metz stated when the issue of home rule came up she found through researching that issue from others towns that when it came to finance, a sub-committee was formed not just solely of Trustees but to involve other people in the community to look at the finances as a global approach to the issue. Mrs. Metz stated that in her opinion there are some areas of the budget that are not clearly defined.

Mayor Andrews stated the three areas mentioned for the property tax increase this evening were clearly defined and the purposes and where the additional revenue would be allocated were stated. He noted that many of the police department vehicles have many miles on them and there are frequent vehicle maintenance issues. Mayor Andrews further stated that the \$150,000 would not only pay for the hiring of one additional police officer with benefits but also an on-going police vehicle replacement program as well as other services. Mayor Andrews stated that \$350,000 is the amount of money that is anticipated to be needed for Village programs and services.

Mr. Kyzivat stated the Board has mentioned three areas they are requesting funds for, how much is needed and how the money would be allocated. He added that the Board cannot be more specific than that because we all have issues that come up as a homeowner with expenses that are not anticipated and there will probably be a contingency fund for unexpected expenses that might arise. Mrs. Atkins stated that she served on a school board for many years and the Board might consider developing a one to five year plan that might be helpful to the Village to determine what is needed now, what will be needed in the future, how much it will cost and how will it be funded. Mayor Andrews reported that of the \$350,000, if passed, \$100,000 would be for debt payments, \$150,000 for police protection and \$100,000 for streets.

Mayor Andrews thanked everyone for their suggestions. He noted that the Board needs to approve the questions to be placed on the ballot at a General Election, those elections do not happen that frequently and the Board is looking ahead to plan for future expenses by asking voters for their support at the March 20, 2012 Election.

Al Krisciunas, of Acacia, stated it is important that the word gets out to the community about what is being proposed by the Board including additional information about the upcoming election that can be published in Smoke Signals. Mr. Krisciunas stated that the Board spelled out what the money is needed for in the property tax increase, it should be easily saleable to all residents in the community and if the community wants services we all need to pay for them. Mr. Krisciunas stated that he previously served on the Village Board many years ago in the early development of Village and when money was needed to improve community services, the voters were asked the question on the ballot and it was approved at that time. Mr. Krisciunas further stated that he would welcome a Board representative to attend an Acacia Association meeting to discuss the proposed questions that will be placed on the ballot at the March 20, 2012 election.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Board needs time to finalize the ordinance to present the questions for the March 20, 2012 ballot that is dependent on the tax levy without changing the bottom line and numbers need to be calculated on how much the tax increase would cost to a \$100,000 market value home.

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to direct counsel to work with Treasurer Busa and Dave Brink in the Finance Department to finalize an ordinance with the appropriate language that would accomplish what is needed to raise an additional \$350,000 in revenue. He noted the final ordinance would be considered at the special Board meeting to be scheduled this month.

Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to facilitate the referendum questions for the March 20, 2012 Election ballot to raise an additional \$350,000 in property taxes with a final ordinance to be presented to the Board for approval at a special meeting to be held this month. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mrs. Metz stated last year the Highlands School students participated in a community service day in the Village, a community service day will be held again this year on Friday, April 13, 2012 and she stated that students are available to help where they are needed. Mrs. Metz stated last year the students helped a couple of senior citizens with yard clean-up and she asked the Board if there are any activities the students could help with or if there is a senior citizen that needs assistance. Mayor Andrews thanked Mrs. Metz for the offer. Mrs. Metz stated the students are in grades 6th through 8th.

Craig Fisher, of Plainfield Road, asked if there is a copy of the Indian Head Park budget available for review. Mayor Andrews asked Mr. Fisher to contact the Administration Offices and a copy of the budget will be provided.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) to discuss land acquisition and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline or performance of specific employees. There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Trustee Bermier moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to return to the regular meeting. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nays: None

Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 10:15 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Leach, Deputy Village Clerk/Recording Secretary